

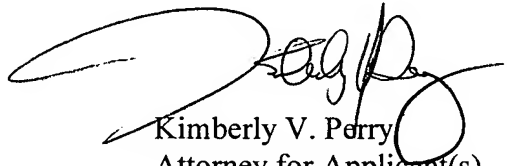
Appln. No.:
Amdt. dated:
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled. New claims 12-22 are pending in this application. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly V. Perry
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 43,612

United States Surgical, a division of
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856
(203) 845-4562